

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00194 101427Z

51

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TAGS: MORG, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL BOYLE, COMMANDER MARITIME COMMAND,
CAUSES A STIR

REF: HALIFAX TEL 191

1. DURING COURSE OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) PARTY CAUCUS MEETING IN HALIFAX OVER WEEKEND OF JUNE 7-8, VICE ADMIRAL DOUGLAS BOYLE, COMMANDER, MARITIME COMMAND, WAS ASKED TO GIVE BRIEFING TO ABOUT 25 PC MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. INITIAL LOCAL REPORTING COVERED BOYLE'S SUGGESTIONS THAT NAVY VESSELS OF DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND RCMP BE COMBINED UNDER MARITIME COMMAND. HE ALSO MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE 17 YEAR OLD ARGUS MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT AND OUTLINED HIS BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES AT SOME LENGTH.

2. BY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9 DETAILS OF HIS BRIEFINGS HAD REACHED OTTAWA AND CREATED FRONT-PAGE NEWS. THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, MITCHELL SHARP, TOLD COMMONS THAT GENERAL DEXTRAZE, CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE STAFF, HAD SUMMONED BOYLE TO OTTAWA TO EXPLAIN SOME OF HIS REMARKS. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, JAMES RICHARDSON, ALSO TOLD THE HOUSE OF
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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00194 101427Z

COMMONS THAT, WHILE HE AGREED WITH MOST OF ADMIRAL BOYLE'S

COMMENTS ABOUT MARITIME COMMAND AND THE ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL, HE THOUGHT THAT THE ADMIRAL HAD OVERSTEPPED HIS BOUNDARIES WHEN HE SPOKE CRITICALLY ABOUT THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

3. THE COMMENTS WHICH CAUSED THE STIR IN OTTAWA HAD TO DO WITH ADMIRAL BOYLE'S REFERENCES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND INTERNATIONAL AID. IN DISCUSSING THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF MARITIME COMMAND, THE ADMIRAL HAD TOLD THE VISITING MPS THAT HE COULD USE SOME OF THE MONEY SPENT ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TO IMPROVE HIS COMMAND AND PERHAPS EVEN EMPLOY SOME OF THE JOBLESS. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE MONEY SENT TO HELP DEVELOPINGCOUNTRIES THROUGH THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY WAS WASTED OR MISSPENT. THIS COMMENT APPARENTLY CAME IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM EDMONTON-STRATHCONA MP DOUGLAS ROCHE, ALLEGEDLY A WELL-KNOWN PARTY "PACIFIST" IN DEFENSE MATTERS, WHO HAD SUGGESTED TO THE ADMIRAL THAT THERE BE DIVERSION OF SOME MILITARY SPENDING INTO FOREIGN AID, LEAVING CANADIAN DEFENSE TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. SUMMONING OF ADMIRAL BOYLE TO OTTAWA MARKS FIRST MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIAL OF MARITIME COMMAND SINCE RETIRED REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM LANDYMORE CAME OUT PUBLICLY IN MID-1960'S AGAINST UNIFICATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND WENT INTO EARLY RETIREMENT IN PROTEST.
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